GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:399
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2015
LICENSING REGIME FOR TOWER COMPANIES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to bring mobile tower companies under the licensing regime;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c) Madam, towers that are used for providing coverage of mobile services are generally installed by companies which have been granted Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) License, Unified Access Service License (UASL) or Unified License (UL), under Section 4 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 by Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India. Therefore such companies are already covered under licensing regime.

Further, to support the faster growth of telecom infrastructure including mobile tower, DoT has also created a separate registration category known as Infrastructure Providers Category-I (IP-I). The IP-I registered companies are permitted to create passive infrastructure such as tower, dark fibre, duct space etc. and provide the same to licensed telecom service providers. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its recommendation dated 16.04.2012 on Guidelines for Unified License (UL) had recommended that the IP-I be brought under the Unified licensing regime. However, DoT has decided the guidelines for Unified Licensing regime and issued the same on 19.08.2013 without including IP-I in Unified License.